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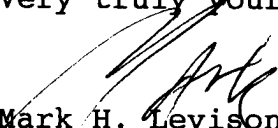
May 31, 1988

Honorable William H. Webster
Director, Central Intelligence
c/o Bill Baker
Director of Public Affairs
CIA
Washington, D.C. 10505

Dear Judge Webster:

Enclosed is a copy of my most recent column. Again, thanks
for coming to speak with us.

Very truly yours,


Mark H. Levison

MHL/df
Enclosure

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Judge Webster and the lawyers

by Mark Levison

Each Tuesday one of the members of the Group will provide his particular brand of insight into some topic of the day. In occasions, two or more members of the Group may address a single topic.

The Levison Group

Mark Levison — Ben Clark
Aitch Margo — Charles Kramer

"First thing you do is kill all the lawyers"

William Shakespeare

Webster Groves' William Webster was the keynote speaker at this year's annual Law Day Dinner. A former 8th Circuit jurist and head of the FBI, the current CIA director revealed himself to be first and foremost a lawyer with respect for our laws. It was refreshing to hear a Reagan appointee speak so adamantly about the sacred trust vested in the leaders of this country to follow the laws of the land. That attitude is especially important in a leader of powerful surveillance agencies such as the FBI and the CIA. That attitude should be equally important to the head of the Justice Department, though today it does not seem to be so. At a time when the Justice Department is being allowed to self-destruct, it is nice to have other lawyers in the public eye that make us feel proud of our profession.

Webster told the nearly 700 people gathered in the Omni Ballroom that he ran the CIA with three guiding principles: first, the laws of the United States must be strictly adhered to; second, although the nature of the agency requires that some of its activities be kept from public view, it will make frank disclosure to the Congressional oversight committees. Webster tells his agents that congressional inquiries, even if in artfully asked, must be fully answered. Third, Webster added, failure to follow the rules will always be



Mark Levison

vigorously prosecuted.

Deeds count, not words. Nevertheless, listening to Webster, it is easy to believe he means what he says. Further, his record at the FBI speaks for itself. Under his stewardship that agency, previously marred by

scandals and excesses, regained some of its former vigor and non-partisan make-up.

Prior to Judge Webster's talk, new BAMSL President McPherson Moore commented on the vogue misuse of the Shakespearean line "First thing you do is kill all the lawyers." That phrase was uttered by Dick the Butcher in King Henry VI. Shakespeare's Dick the Butcher was in league with Jack Cade, a scoundrel who desired to take over England and be worshipped as its lord. The first step the pair deemed necessary was to "kill all the lawyers". We ought to inform those who choose to use that quote out of context of its true intent. Moore went on to point out that a common denominator of totalitarian governments is the elimination of those that believe in, and understand, the value of a system of justice.

Lawyers make a living by insuring that our laws are enforced. It is our job to make sure individuals receive their civil rights and the compensation due them under our system of justice. There will always be bad apples in any group, and there is certainly enough room for improvement in our group. Fortunately, however, despite all the bad-mouthing, lawyers are still often looked upon as inspirational figures and vindicators of rights. Check out television's Matlock, Perry Mason or Ann Kelsey. Lawyering is a noble profession. We ought to act like we're proud of it. It's nice to have television writers make us look good on Perry Mason. It's even nicer to have Judge Webster around as a real example of how good the best of us can be.

The views of any one member of the Levison Group do not necessarily reflect the views of other members or the St. Louis Daily Record and The St. Louis Countian.